

Established February, 1845.

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH

## Shipping

**Steamers.**

FOR SINGAPORE, HAVRE AND  
HAMBURG, LE HAVRE, BREMEN

(Taking Cargo at through rates to  
**ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, ROTTER-  
DAM, LONDON, LIVERPOOL  
and BREMEN.)**

**The Steamship**  
*Delfine*  
Captain J. Voss, will be  
despatched for the above  
Ports on **TUESDAY**, the 21st Instant, at  
10 a.m.


For Freight or Passage, apply to  
**SIEMSEN & Co.,**  
Agents.  
Hongkong, February 11, 1888. 32

**OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.**

**FOR SHANGHAI**

(Taking Cargo & Passengers at through rates  
for NINGPO, CHEFOO, NEW-  
CHOWANG, TIENTSIN, HANKOW, and  
Ports on the YANGTZE.)

The Co.'s Steamship

 Captain HANNAH, will be despatched as above on **WEDNESDAY**, the 22nd Instant. For Freight or Passage, apply to **BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.** Hongkong, February 14, 1886. **OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.**

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.  
The Co.'s Steamship  
*Ajaz*,  
Captain RILEY, will be  
despatched as above on


For Freight or Passage, apply to  
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, February 15, 1888. 24  
THE GIBB LINE OF STEAMERS.  
FOR SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

PORTS, ADELAIDE, TASMANIA,  
NEW ZEALAND, &c.)

The British Steamer  
*Myra*,  
Captain Hoag, due  
the 10th Instant, will  
be despatched as above on SATURDAY

Attention is directed to the Steamer  
comfortable Saloon and State Rooms, afford-  
ing excellent Accommodation for First  
class Passengers.  
Fare to Sydney or Melbourne, \$150.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
**GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,**  
Managers.  
Hongkong, February 15, 1888.

LIMITED.  
—  
FOR PORT DARWIN, SYDNEY AND  
MELBOURNE.

 **J. D. O. ARFUR, Com**  
mander, will be de  
patched as above on **TUESDAY**, the 23  
Proximo, at 4 p.m.  
The attention of **Passengers** is directed

to the Superior Accommodation offered in this Steamer. First-class Saloon and Cabin are situated forward of the Engine. Second Class Passengers are berthed in the Poop. A Refrigerating Chamber ensures the supply of Fresh Provisions during the

entire voyage. A duly qualified Surgeon is  
carried.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
**BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,**  
Agents.  
Hongkong, February 11, 1868. 2

**Notices to Consignees.**  
**NETHERLANDS INDIA STEAM**  
**NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITE**  
**FROM SOURABAYA SAMARANG**

**THE** Steamship *Velece*, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees Cargo by her are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the HONGKONG AND

at West Point, whence delivery may be obtained.  
Cargo remaining undelivered after the 22nd instant will be subject to rent.  
No Fire Insurance has been effected.  
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by  
JARDINE MATHESON & Co

Hongkong, February 15, 1888. 2  
**GLEN LINE OF STEAM PACKETS**  
**FROM LONDON, PENANG AND**  
**SINGAPORE.**

The Steamship *Glenfruin*, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignments of Cargo by her and by the S.S. *Greenland* and *Denmark*, from New York, are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the HONGKONG and KOWLOON WHARF and GODOWNS CO., LD., at Kowloon, when

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before Noon To-day, the 14th Instant.

Cargo remaining undelivered after the 20th Instant will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Agent.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,  
Agents,  
Hongkong, February 14, 1888. 23

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**HALL PROGRAMMES  
FOR SALE.**

CHINA MAIL OFFICE,  
2, WYNDHAM STREET.  
January 20, 1883.







## THE MEDICAL COMMISSION.

The Medical Commission, appointed to inquire into the nature and cause of fever in the Western District met at the Government Office this afternoon. Dr. Mortimer presided, and the other members of the Commission present were Dr. Ayres, Dr. Young, Dr. Cantlie, Dr. Jordan, Dr. Yarr, and Dr. Atkinson.

Mr. A. G. Aiken, who was the first witness examined, said:—I was not one of those who signed the petition, but I am perfectly willing to give the Commission all the information I can. I had fever in 1887. I do not remember the date exactly, but I had four or five attacks, the middle one at the end of the year. The attacks towards the end of the year were very severe and were attended with retching and vomiting. I had no shivering, but cold sweats sometimes. There was no diarrhoea nor eruption. Previous to 1886 I never had fever. My first attack was in 1886. I was then residing in the same house. The whole of my family had fever—not one of them excepted—in 1887, and many of my servants. I had great difficulty in procuring servants generally.

By Dr. Young—Five of my children and my wife went home in 1885, but that was not on account of fever. One of my family had an enlargement of the spleen, and it was chiefly on that account that the trip home was made. Fever has been frequent from May 1886 on to the end of 1887. I have been 28 years in Hongkong and I never had fever before 1886. I have been living at West Point for 20 years, and I never had fever there. I have never been in the same way before the time I have mentioned. I think it very peculiar that the fever should come in the winter time, because we never knew it in winter time before at West Point.

By the Chairman—I have a great deal to complain of in regard to the drainage of my neighbourhood, chiefly with respect to the bad smells from N.W. by N.

By Dr. Cantlie—The Tung Wah Hospital is a good drainage from my house and is in a N.E. direction, the smells I complain of come from the N.W. When the wind is from that point the smells are somewhat awful. I think they come from the sewer which was laid in the ravine that runs along Nullah side, and between Nullah side and Fairview. I went to both the East and West sides of the nullah this afternoon and got the smell particularly strong. Whenever one stands about Nullah side a very bad smell is raised. I could not say how long it is since the Nullah side sewer was constructed. It was formerly a ravine running right down from Bonham Road, and there was a bridge built across at Pokfulam. I think it is about two years ago since the sewer was built up to Pokfulam Road. His left hand at the Pokfulam Road drains run into this sewer. I am almost confident that the fever proceeds from this sewer. While the sewer was being built up, the smells proceeded up the hill. I think the sewer is open near the bottom, but I could not say with certainty. I know it was open at one time. It is covered a considerable distance down the hill from my house run into the sewer. [Here Mr. Aiken produced a plan showing the drainage arrangements of his house.] I attach the cause of the present ill-health to the nullah because of the bad smells coming from it. Mrs. Aiken had typhoid fever last summer.

By Dr. Jordan—It was about three months ago Mrs. Aiken had fever. None of the others of my family had typhoid. By Dr. Cantlie—The attacks of fever which my family had were accompanied by shivering and cold sweats, succeeded by glooms of heat, the temperature going up as high as 103 degs. At the time Mrs. Aiken took typhoid my children were sent to East Point. They were at that time just recovering from fever. One of them had some throat with the fever, the attack being otherwise of the same kind as that from which the other children suffered.

By Dr. Cantlie—I may mention that we visited Mr. Aiken's house and I think we found it the most perfect house in West Point in regard to drainage. It was in excellent order so far as we could see, and Mr. Aiken could not account for the fever in any way except from the reasons he is now explaining.

Mr. Aiken, continuing, said—About three months after the nullah was closed up, I noticed some bad smells, and when I informed Mr. Sassoon he employed Mr. Danby to improve the drains and trap them. That is about eighteen months ago, but they must come from the quarter I have mentioned.

By Dr. Cantlie—The water in the sewer has been very foul of late. There is a small basin or reservoir at the mouth of the sewer the bottom of which is lower than that of the sewer and that is filling up with all sorts of filth. I have not noticed any vegetable growth in it, but on the top there is a thick coating of black stuff which gives off a bad smell. I have lived in Fairview, and we never had better health than when we were there. The house was considered a very healthy one until within the last two years. The change surprised me very much. I have also lived in Westbourne Villas; we had very little illness there, and no fever. None of my family had fever there, neither had any of my servants. I believe the advance of the sewer up the hill was the means of bringing fever to that neighbourhood. I have a strong conviction that this is the whole cause of the fever in my neighbourhood. I believe the same is true with regard to the neighbouring district.

Mr. Price said he apprehended the two sewers complained of in the petition were the one that comes from a little above the Diocesan House right up the road near Mr. Herman's house and the one that comes up from Third Street to Pokfulam Road. The latter only came to within about 100 yards of the sea. The length of the enclosure was about 600 feet and it had been covered in for about two years. There were about nine ventilators. The upper end was quite open. The old nullah was formerly a natural sewer of the rugged stones. The drain that went up Eastern Street terminating in the new road that leads nowhere, was the only one in the Western district, he thought, that had not got a ventilating shaft up the hill. One had been got, but a connection had not yet been made. There was also one, he thought, in D'Almeida Street, but it was not needed, and one or two drains at West Point had not shafts. The length of the shafts up the hill depended on the topography of the place. The drain leading to Richmond Terrace was perforated with untrapped gullies at the intersection of all the streams, which he considered a very inefficient arrangement. It was no use trying to trap public drains until it was done right, for the effect of doing so would simply be to drive the sewer gas into the houses. The improvement of house drains was provided for in the Public Health Bill, which had been delayed by diverse circumstances, opposition &c., but such a bill would soon receive the sanction of the Queen.

Dr. Young pointed out that Mr. Gillies complained of an open sewer near his house at Rose Villa.

Mr. Price—It is possible there may have been some sewer going on.

Dr. Young—I must have been going on for two months. He complains of a bad smell and says he can see the vapour rising.

Mr. Price—It is quite likely if there is an opening that night coolies may deposit filth there.

In answer to Dr. Cantlie, who cross-examined the witness at considerable length, Mr. Price said he did not think that if a piece of ground for 100 yards was covered up, even although there was no sewerage, there would be a gathering of foul air. A great many of the drains had been dug. All of them out of the Harbour Master's hand tight drains. The Richmond Terrace drain had no days below and it had a sealed top. The terminal section, however, just below Cairne Road was the only section that was sealed. All the others were open. Asked whether the worst of the fever and the sealed top would not have an injurious effect, he pointed to the perforation that there was all along. It was intended now to have separate drains for sewerage and foul water and to keep the present channels as conduits for the storm water. Sub-soil drainage could be effected to whatever channel was most suitable. As to the carrying off of the sub-soil drainage there were provisions in the Public Health Bill and in the new Building Ordinance. The object of the provision is to secure sub-soil drainage, and the carrying off of the water is provided for. Sub-soil drainage will be expensive, but it is necessary to prevent the cutting of earth required a combination of circumstances to cause fever. He had never heard before this of an entire district like West Point having fever, as happened during last year. There will be plenty of water to flush the drains when the typhoid water is procured, constant supply and a pressure. The houses on the upper level will be supplied from Pokfulam, and the houses on the lower level, the bulk of the houses, from Tyam.

Mr. Cooper said he had had experience of draining for 10 years. The plan of drainage in Hongkong would, he thought, do with certain modifications. There would be serious harm to have more openings in the drains. Until the present condition of the house drains was altered, no satisfactory improvements could be made.

The Commission then adjourned.

## 'FRAGRANT WATERS' MURMUR.

That much of what one of our correspondents terms shareholders' 'thunder' has been heard to vibrato during the week—some of it distant and some near.

That, like the effect of the Sorcerer's love-philtre on married people, I fear the 'thunder' will have but small influence upon Directors of Companies, unless it be followed up by the decisive action of those who in reality have the power, if they would but use it.

That your correspondent 'Impartiality' taunts shareholders for neglect of their clear duty, and says they have only themselves to blame for the scant information now given to them by their Directors.

That there is much solid truth in what is said by 'All-Round Shareholders' upon the funny manner in which Directors are preserved among a close corporation.

That it is extremely difficult to discover the qualifications of several local gentlemen for the seats now occupied by or proposed for them, unless it be that of their acknowledged antagonism to the interests they are paid to serve.

That it is one of the peculiarities of the Hongkong shareholder, that he pays to some of his Directors a handsome annual fee, and besides gives them valuable business information by means of which they can safely and successfully oppress his interests.

That this course of conduct is so extraordinarily funny, and is so exceedingly pleasant for the Directors who are so treated that it is amazing the humour and pleasure of the idea has never yet occurred to the dull shareholder.

That the weak points of the Imports and Exports Bill have been brought to light more clearly than its strong points, from which fact I conclude that there is more reason against than for its enforcement.

That one of the objections is that the statistics when obtained will be of comparatively little value against the trouble of obtaining them, and that should the Government go on to overhaul cargoes or goods in godown, they will simply raise a hornet's nest of opposition.

That although it is so in the nature of things, and no one is to blame for it, this Colonial Government possesses probably the least knowledge of affairs commercial of any other Government I have ever heard of.

That our present Governor is credited with possessing a great fund of knowledge on most subjects, and it is a pity that he has not as yet gathered much experience of Hongkong.

That reverting again to your unusual crop of correspondence, I may observe that some people are strangely wanting in patience and in appreciation of a paternal Government.

That apparently your correspondent '10 in B. L.' is one of these.

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Dr. Young—I must have been going on for two months. He complains of a bad smell and says he can see the vapour rising.

Mr. Price—It is quite likely if there is an opening that night coolies may deposit filth there.

In answer to Dr. Cantlie, who cross-examined the witness at considerable length, Mr. Price said he did not think that if a piece of ground for 100 yards was covered up, even although there was no sewerage, there would be a gathering of foul air. A great many of the drains had been dug. All of them out of the Harbour Master's hand tight drains. The Richmond Terrace drain had no days below and it had a sealed top. The terminal section, however, just below Cairne Road was the only section that was sealed. All the others were open. Asked whether the worst of the fever and the sealed top would not have an injurious effect, he pointed to the perforation that there was all along. It was intended now to have separate drains for sewerage and foul water and to keep the present channels as conduits for the storm water. Sub-soil drainage could be effected to whatever channel was most suitable. As to the carrying off of the sub-soil drainage there were provisions in the Public Health Bill and in the new Building Ordinance. The object of the provision is to secure sub-soil drainage, and the carrying off of the water is provided for. Sub-soil drainage will be expensive, but it is necessary to prevent the cutting of earth required a combination of circumstances to cause fever. He had never heard before this of an entire district like West Point having fever, as happened during last year. There will be plenty of water to flush the drains when the typhoid water is procured, constant supply and a pressure. The houses on the upper level will be supplied from Pokfulam, and the houses on the lower level, the bulk of the houses, from Tyam.

Mr. Cooper said he had had experience of draining for 10 years. The plan of drainage in Hongkong would, he thought, do with certain modifications. There would be serious harm to have more openings in the drains. Until the present condition of the house drains was altered, no satisfactory improvements could be made.

## 'FRAGRANT WATERS' MURMUR.

That much of what one of our correspondents terms shareholders' 'thunder' has been heard to vibrato during the week—some of it distant and some near.

That, like the effect of the Sorcerer's love-philtre on married people, I fear the 'thunder' will have but small influence upon Directors of Companies, unless it be followed up by the decisive action of those who in reality have the power, if they would but use it.

That your correspondent 'Impartiality' taunts shareholders for neglect of their clear duty, and says they have only themselves to blame for the scant information now given to them by their Directors.

That there is much solid truth in what is said by 'All-Round Shareholders' upon the funny manner in which Directors are preserved among a close corporation.

That it is extremely difficult to discover the qualifications of several local gentlemen for the seats now occupied by or proposed for them, unless it be that of their acknowledged antagonism to the interests they are paid to serve.

That it is one of the peculiarities of the Hongkong shareholder, that he pays to some of his Directors a handsome annual fee, and besides gives them valuable business information by means of which they can safely and successfully oppress his interests.

That this course of conduct is so extraordinarily funny, and is so exceedingly pleasant for the Directors who are so treated that it is amazing the humour and pleasure of the idea has never yet occurred to the dull shareholder.

That the weak points of the Imports and Exports Bill have been brought to light more clearly than its strong points, from which fact I conclude that there is more reason against than for its enforcement.

That one of the objections is that the statistics when obtained will be of comparatively little value against the trouble of obtaining them, and that should the Government go on to overhaul cargoes or goods in godown, they will simply raise a hornet's nest of opposition.

That although it is so in the nature of things, and no one is to blame for it, this Colonial Government possesses probably the least knowledge of affairs commercial of any other Government I have ever heard of.

That our present Governor is credited with possessing a great fund of knowledge on most subjects, and it is a pity that he has not as yet gathered much experience of Hongkong.

That reverting again to your unusual crop of correspondence, I may observe that some people are strangely wanting in patience and in appreciation of a paternal Government.

That apparently your correspondent '10 in B. L.' is one of these.

That it is rumoured that the War Office, having determined that the Colony shall be supplied with the newest and most destructive description of armament, have very wisely decided to wait until breech-loading guns have been superseded by something better before arming the forts.

That it is reassuring to be reminded, in the Speech from the Throne, that the defence of the coasting stations has not been quite forgotten, and it might be well if the advice of the Army & Navy Committee were

followed, that Lord Salisbury's recent utterances on that subject should be emblazoned in letters of gold in the Houses of Parliament.

That all the same our batteries, which are probably impregnable in theory, are still innocent of guns, and as I before suggested, we had better start and make them on the spot.

That upon the reaping of the day of Korea. It is probable that the recovery of Seoul and high functionaries will be degraded respecting this affair.

Dr. Young pointed



